



Keep the men in
the service warm

Take care of
the wool
you have

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JUN 16 1947

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SCIENCE

For each new Johnny Doughboy there must be about 200 pounds of fleece wool for warm uniforms and blankets. Our country's wool supply is limited, imports uncertain.

It's up to you to use wool clothing and household articles with care . . . make them serve you long and well. This is one home-front job toward winning the war.

GOOD CARE RULES FOR WOOL

Keep It Clean. When wool gathers much soil it's harder to bring back that spick-and-span look. Perspiration weakens wool. Grit cuts it. Spots are moth bait.

Give It the Air. A gentle airing blows stale odors away and lifts matted nap. Sun baths rout moths from wool—but take care lest colors fade.

Mend It in Time. Tiny holes deserve careful mending and are easier to hide than big holes. And a thin place reinforced may never break through.

Don't Shock It. Wool can't stand sharp temperature changes. A plunge into hot water shrinks the fibers, mats them. Drying in cold blasts of air or by a hot stove shrinks and hardens the fabric. Once the comforting softness is gone, it's gone.

Protect It From Pests. There are likely to be some clothes moths or carpet beetles in almost any home, at any time of the year. Keep them down—and out.

When you take good care of wool things, you benefit three ways: The wool keeps its fresh, fluffy look. It holds its friendly warmth. And it gives longer wear in general.



TAKE CARE OF THE WOOL YOU HAVE

Pointers on Clothes

A new wool garment deserves a good start. Give a new dress small underarm shields and a back shield. These keep off perspiration and body-oil stains. A back shield, even a thin one, gives some extra warmth.

For a new coat, make shields of matching lining cloth. Sew them in under the arms and they will take the stains and the rub.

Protect new trousers by sewing retreats inside, in seat and knees. Sew wear guards around the lower edge of trouser legs.

It saves a wool coat to unfasten or loosen the fastenings when you sit in it long. This lessens stretching at shoulders and hips.

A scarf keeps smudges off a coat neckline. A washable collar does the same for a dress.

Don't overwork a pocket. If it's stirred and loaded, it will sag and may even tear.

Let a wool garment rest after 1 or 2 days of wear, if you can. The wool springs back, and some wrinkles drop out . . . then less pressing is needed.

It's well to brush a wool coat or dress after each wearing, and to let it air a while.

Knit dresses and sweaters stretch if hung up. It's better to lay them on a bed to air, then fold and lay them away in a drawer.

When other wool dresses or coats "rest" on hangers, fasten them so they hang straight . . . not twisted or wrinkled. Give them elbowroom and some of the wrinkles will drop out.

Once in a while, line up wool clothes in use for general brushing and airing, inside and out. Include wool-fabric shoes, bedroom slippers, wool-lined arctics, felt bats. Brush out seams. Turn down cuffs. Turn out pockets. Snop for moths. Whisk off dirt.

On wet days, protect your wool clothes with an umbrella or raincoat. A soaked wool coat is seldom the same again. If wool clothes get wet or muddy, dry them slowly at room warmth—never close to a stove or radiator. When dry, brush clean.

A wool bathing suit should be washed and dried in the shade after each swim.

Pointers on Blankets

Blankets, like the rest of the bedclothes, need daily airing before the bed is made.

A blanket stays clean longer if you make the bed this way: Turn the sheet back over the blanket top 8 to 12 inches. If the sheet is too short, baste a strip of cloth across the blanket top.

The less is yanking and strain if a blanket is well placed—far enough up to cover shoulders, far enough down to keep feet tucked in.

A third sheet over wool bedding makes a useful dust cover, if much soil blows in at night. The top sheet also helps the blanket keep you warm, since it holds still air in the fluffy wool.

Pointers on Rugs and Carpets

Nearly all the wool in floor coverings comes from foreign countries now at war. That means: Give extra good care to what you have.

A cushion under a carpet or rug takes some of the wear. A mothproofed hair pad is best, but several layers of newspaper will do.

Caster seats under legs of chairs, beds, and sofa keep sharp-edged rollers from cutting floor coverings.

If a rug sprouts loose ends of yarn, as the best may do, clip the sprouts even with the surface, using sharp scissors. That's much better than pulling them up like weeds.

There's a sound reason for sweeping every day with a soft brush or hand carpet sweeper. That way, you pick up loose dirt, lint, and threads. Dirt left alone works down to roots of the pile, where it takes harder cleaning to reach it. Gritty dirt, especially, cuts the tufts—that's why door mats save rugs.

A dining-room rug catches crumbs and grease. A quick brush-up after a meal may whisk off grease before it can soak in.

Rugs or carpets in steady use need thorough cleaning once a week with vacuum cleaner or broom. Remember that long, gentle broom strokes clean as well as hard, digging strokes . . . and stir up less dust and are easier on the rug.

Clean scatter rugs like big ones. If you sweep, lay small rugs flat on a big one, or on clean grass. Shaking breaks the yarns and whups the hem. A carpet beater cracks yarns and loosens sizing.

Moving furniture around once in a while gives crushed pile a rest. And it uproots any insect pests around furniture legs.

Pointers on Draperies and Upholstery

Some drapery and upholstery fabrics contain mohair from the Angora goat. A few are made from wool. Give such fabrics regular wool care.

To keep draperies fresh, brush often with a sylk broom or clean with a vacuum-cleaner attachment. Or, shake and air them.

Retiring heavy wool draperies for the summer and putting up cotton hangings saves the wool for longer usefulness in cold seasons.

Upholstery needs brushing each week and a sharp-eyed hunt for pests. Remove cushions and clean the crevices. Clean off stains. If the pile is mashed, you can steam it this way: Spread a damp cotton cloth on the crushed pile and hold an iron—hot enough to make steam—close to the cloth, but not touching.

Insect pests may hide under slip covers. So, at least once a month take off covers to see that all's well, and brush and clean as described above.

Keep Wool Mended

Darning. Best darning yarns are ravelings from a scrap you have saved or from the seam or hem in the garment. If possible, use lengthwise yarns for darning lengthwise, and crosswise yarns for darning crosswise.

If you can't get self-yarns, use a dull thread and choose it a trifle dark, because it works up lighter. Use a reasonably fine needle and a short thread (you may pull and stretch the hole working a long thread back and forth).

Work under a good light. Take tiny stitches. Work on flattening . . . stitches too tight will pucker, and stitches too loose will puff. It's usually easier to darn from the right side—you can watch the effect. Steam-press the darn on the wrong side, and brush lightly on the right side to lift the nap.

Patches. Cut a patch on the straight of the goods. Fit it to the lengthwise and crosswise yarns of the garment. When you patch faded fabrics try to find a matching faded piece.

When You Go After Spots

Start work quickly while a stain is fresh . . . before it dries, if you can.

Professional cleaners "spot out" stains before general cleaning . . . you can well copy. Pressing over spots will "set" some stains.

It's wise to test the effect of water or a chemical remover on a hidden hem or seam.

Strong acids or strong alkalies destroy wool fabrics. Even if a mild acid is used, or a mild alkali—as a weak solution of ammonia, borax, or washing soda—rinse it out well.

Bleaches that contain chlorine destroy wool. Good bleaches for wool are hydrogen peroxide and sodium perborate.

Make the treatment fit the stain and try simplest methods first. Many fruit and other food stains can be sponged out with cold water. If that doesn't succeed, try lukewarm water, and—if needed—little mild soap.

Sponge a grease spot with carbon tetrachloride, gasoline, or benzene. To sponge: Lay the stain face down on a cloth pad and add light brushing motions from outside the spot to the center. The trick is to spread or "feather out" the liquid around the stain, so that no ring will form.

A splash of salad oil or light grease may come off if dusted with talcum or cornstarch or some other absorbent powder. Shake or brush off the powder when gummy. Repeat when necessary.

Schorch stains are stubborn. Try brushing with fine sandpaper. On white wool, try bleaching: Lay on the stain a white cloth dampened with hydrogen peroxide. Cover with a dry cloth and press with a warm iron. Repeat if necessary, keeping a dry cloth between the iron and damp cloth or you will have a rust stain to fight. Sponge with clear water.



This is the Way to Wash and Dry

To wash or not to wash. For most wool clothing dry cleaning is better than washing. However, many knit garments, flannels, and challisies may be washed satisfactorily at home. And many a homemaker learns to wash a blanket so it won't turn out shrunk or boardy. The warmth of a blanket depends very largely upon the amount of nap, so it's well worth while to take care in the washing to hold the fluffy softness.

For a comforter, dry-cleaning is best. Washing is likely to leave the filling lumpy and matted; and if the covering is of rayon satin or taffeta or glazed chintz, it may look less attractive after tubbing. If you do wash a comforter, treat it like a blanket.

It is advisable to have rugs dry-cleaned or shampooed by a reliable commercial cleaner who has equipment for thorough rinsing, fast drying.

Know size and shape. Before washing a knit garment or any other that might shrink, measure it, so you can stretch it to right size later. A handy trick is to lay the garment on paper or cloth and draw its outline, to be used in reshaping the garment.

Use lukewarm soft water, and mild soap. Hard water can be softened with an ammonia or borax solution—use cautiously, or you will add too much alkali for the good of the wool. And be sure the water is lukewarm, for you may shrink wool in one hot or cold dip. Allow plenty of water, more than for most fabrics.

Dissolve mild soap in the water. Or use one of the soapless oil washing materials such as are sold for hair shampoos. Make generous suds before the wool goes in.

Wash gently. Never soak wool. Wash by hand, if you can. Squeeze suds through fabric. Rubbing shrinks and hardens wool. If you use a washing machine, don't crowd wool articles . . . and wash them quickly. Never boil them.

Rinse off all soap. When wool is clean, rinse 2 or 3 times in clear lukewarm water. Squeeze water out gently . . . don't wring or twist.

Dry with care. A warm, but not hot, place is just right for drying. Never let wool things freeze.

Hang knit underwear from the shoulders . . . shape the garments occasionally, and squeeze water from the ends.

Dry other knit things flat, or on forms, if you have them. If you have an outline drawn on cloth or paper, spread a knitted garment on it and pull to shape and pin . . . keep sleeves flat . . . a skirt straight . . . smooth out bulges.

Hang blankets over a line with a half or a fourth on one side, and without clothespins. A blanket dries quicker if two lines—near together—hang at right angles. Squeeze water from the ends occasionally and shake the blanket to fluff the nap.

Pressing Makes Perfect

Wools sold as washable, such as challisies, may be ironed like other laundered clothing—but always with a warm iron—never a hot one—and on the wrong side.

For most wool, steam pressing is the only way to take out wrinkles and smooth the surface, and flatten creases. If you haven't a steam iron, use an ordinary iron and two clean press cloths, one of wool and one of firm cotton cloth. Or, simpler yet, use one of the new treated pack cloths and follow directions on the package.

Steam-press on the wrong side if wool is likely to shrink from pressing, or if the weave has any raised pattern. Right side pressing may be best if wool is thick. Try a little place and see which way gives the neatest press.

Be sure to leave a little moisture in, or the wool will look hard and lifeless.

To steam-press: Cover the wool first with the dry wool press cloth, then with the cotton press cloth dampened in warm water. Press by setting down—the lifting a warm iron; don't slide the iron back and forth. Irons get hot enough to force steam through the wool. Lift the press cloths and beat out steam left in the wool with your hand or a wood block.

Sometimes a new hand-knit garment, or a learned-knit garment, needs blocking—light steam-pressing (without mashing)—to give a finished look. Or block this easy way: Sprinkle two heavy bath towels slightly and spread the garment between them. Cover with a board or other firm, flat surface. Weight this down and leave until the garment is dry.

If you buy wool yard goods that isn't pre-shrunk, it's wise to have it steam-pressed to shrink it, before cutting out a garment.

Store Wool Like Treasure

Clean. Before you store at home any article of wool, see that it's clean and free from pests.

Dark. Sunlight and artificial light weaken wool fabrics and fade colors. A clothing bag is sometimes a protection from light as well as dust.

Dry. Dampness invites mildew. In very damp, warm climates, closets with drying and ventilating systems are often needed. Heat from an electric lamp kept burning in a closet may dry the air enough to stop mold growth. (Be sure to protect clothes from the light.) An electric fan to stir the air may help. Calcium chloride in an open jar absorbs moisture in a closet, but must be renewed.

Cool. Moths and beetles enjoy warmth. But if you must choose between a hot dry attic and a cool damp basement, store wool in the dry attic. Avoid dampness.





Pests at Work

Every clothes moth and carpet beetle living off good wool is helping the Axis. More than ever now, it's important to wage war on pests.

First, know the enemy: Clothes moths and carpet beetles (sometimes called buffalo moths) have similar eating habits. You can fight both in much the same way.

Both the moths and beetles lay white, soft eggs. In warmth, it takes only a few days for the eggs to hatch into larvae, or grubs, that do ruinous eating. A grub eats wool, fur, hair, feathers. It may grow and eat for a year or more before it spins a cradle and changes into an adult moth or beetle.

A growing beetle grub sheds its skin 6 to 10 times. To do this, it stops eating and may retire a while to wall spaces where sprays and fumigants can't reach.

When it is colder than 50° F. moth and beetle larvae do not eat, and eggs do not hatch. Moth and beetle larvae don't eat into paper . . . can't stand bright sun . . . can't stand some gases.

You kill any larvae present when you wash wool in thick suds. Sunning and airing, along with brushing, kill larvae. In bright sun they drop to the ground. And brushing crushes the eggs or whisks them out of seams and pockets.

Even with this type of care, you may harbor hidden eggs or larvae. So protect wool by using flake naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene, or mothballs, or a spray. Use plenty, to get results. As these chemicals evaporate, they give off gas. The gas discourages moth larvae from feeding . . . kills them if the gas is concentrated enough.

It takes about 1 pound of flakes or balls for a small chest or trunk with a tight lid. For a large closet or storeroom, use 1 pound to 100 cubic feet. Keep the storage place shut as much as you can. The fumes go downwards, so it's well to tie some flakes in a cloth sack and hang them high. Or put some on a top shelf.

Tight is the watchword in storing against these pests. Put wool things with chemical flakes in heavy paper tightly sealed or in boxes, chests, or trunks with tight lids. If you use a closet just for storing, put crack-filler in any breaks in the plaster or around baseboards. A gasket will make the door shut tight all around.

Other bulletins available from the U. S. Department of Agriculture

- ABC's of Mending
- Mending Men's Suits
- Make-Overs from Men's Suits
- Stain Removal from Fabrics: Home Methods
- Clothes Moths
- Carpet Beetles

Issued by

BUREAU OF HOME ECONOMICS

Agricultural Research Administration

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, D. C.

March 1943